

**Request for Proposals
Evaluation Services
with regard to the Regional Impact of Compulsive Gambling
by the Port Authority of Kansas City, Missouri**

Background

The City of Kansas City, Missouri has delegated local administrative oversight of casino gambling operations to the Port Authority of Kansas City, Missouri. As part of their agreements to locate within the city, casinos have made financial contributions to a Problem Gaming Fund, which the Port Authority administers. This request for proposal is being underwritten by that Fund. The intent is to support activities that will assess and/or reduce the incidence of compulsive gambling by residents of Kansas City, Missouri and surrounding area.

Eligibility

Any entity that can fully respond to the scope of services is eligible to submit a proposal. Applicants may include nonprofit organizations and universities. While there is no geographic limitation, preference will be given to applicants located within Greater Kansas City.

Scope of Services

Gambling has been legally available in Missouri since charitable gambling was legalized in 1980. The Lottery was approved by 70% of the voters in November 1984. The Senate approved the creation of a Lottery in June 1985, and the Lottery began its first game on January 20, 1986. Excursion gambling boats were approved by over 62% of the voters in November 1992; the first licensed excursion gambling boat opened to the public in 1994.

The Port Authority would like to more accurately ascertain the impact of compulsive gambling on the citizens of the Greater Kansas City area in comparison to the impact on citizens in the rest of the state of Missouri and/or the nation. This information is essential to identify the effectiveness of current and future prevention, outreach, and treatment programs.

As part of crafting an effective and comprehensive problem gambling program, the Port Authority is interested in learning the following:

- Prevalence of problem and pathological gambling in the Greater Kansas City area, with comparison to the prevalence in the state of Missouri
- Average age when individual was introduced to gambling
- Average age of onset of problem gambling behavior
- Any socio-economic indicators with strong correlations to increased vulnerability to problem gambling
- Types of gambling activities in which the individual participates/participated
- Does the \$500 loss limit appear to be an effective deterrent to problem gambling?

The Port Authority would also like to enhance the research goals of the Missouri Gaming Commission in its goals to evaluate the effectiveness of the Voluntary Exclusion Program as a tool for problem gamblers and as a pipeline to treatment services.

Research firms that incorporate primary research goals of the Missouri Gaming Commission into their project/interview may have access to data from the state of Missouri's Voluntary Exclusion Program^a to focus groups and/or interview problem gamblers. Currently, this list includes more than 4700 individuals. These primary research goals, as well as secondary research goals of the Commission, are outlined below.

Primary research goals will determine

- what motivated the person to enter the voluntary exclusion program
- whether the individual is at-risk, a problem gambler, pathological gambler, or none of the above
- whether the person has received any form of counseling or treatment and in what form;
- why the person did not receive counseling if they did not
- what would motivate the person to seek counseling
- whether the person has been successful in refraining from gambling and, if so, for how long
- whether a person has relapsed after joining the voluntary exclusion program
- whether a person was not identified when illegally visiting a Missouri casino

Secondary research goals will determine

- whether the person has a history of abusing alcohol or a controlled substance, and, if yes, did it precede, co-occur, or follow the onset of the gambling problem
- Demographics of the Voluntary Exclusion Program list, including personal income level, profession, and educational background
- Whether the person suffers from depression or other mental health conditions
- Marital history of people on the list and the impact of problem gaming on the marriage
- Any other social condition that may help in evaluating what helps or prevents individuals from seeking treatment and achieving recovery

Proposals need not include provisions to utilize the voluntary exclusion program data in order to be considered in this competition, but firms must clearly identify how they will craft a research project that will fulfill the goal of assessing the impact of problem and pathological gambling in the Greater Kansas City Area in comparison to the State of Missouri. Again, only proposals incorporating the above goals of the Missouri Gaming Commission will have access to the data set of the voluntary exclusion program.

^a The Missouri Voluntary Exclusion Program (also known as the List of Disassociated Persons), created in 1996, provides problem gamblers with a method to acknowledge that they have a gambling problem and to take personal responsibility for it by agreeing to stop visiting riverboat casinos for the rest of their life. The program directs Missouri casino operators to remove Disassociated Persons from all direct marketing lists; refuse check-cashing privileges; and deny participation in player programs.

Contract Period

The grant term will be one year. This period may be extended, and the scope of work revised, by mutual agreement between the Port Authority and the selected grantee(s). Interim progress reports will be required at six-month intervals.

Application Format

A completed application will consist of 10 copies of the following items:

1. A cover sheet listing the applicant's
 - a. name
 - b. address (a post office box is unacceptable)
 - c. phone number, fax, and email address
 - d. contact person and title
 - e. total project cost for one year
2. The application narrative (described below)
3. A copy of the applicant's 501(c)(3) determination letter.
4. A copy of the Affirmative Action Program the applicant has adopted. The applicant's Affirmative Action Program must at a minimum provide that (a) it shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex or national origin, (b) it shall take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, sex or national origin, (c) such action shall include, without limitation, employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training, and (d) the provisions of the Affirmative Action Program shall be posted in conspicuous places and available to employees and applicants for employment.

Applications should be stapled. Do not enclose applications in notebooks or spiral bindings. Also, do not include any attachments, brochures, or other materials beyond those listed in this section.

Application Narrative

The application narrative should be no longer than five pages (single-spaced, one-inch margins, 12-point font) and include the following items:

1. A brief history of the applicant and its current programs/activities
2. The applicant's experience in conducting research in behavioral science fields

3. Experience with compulsive gambling issues, research, theories, and/or treatment programs by the applicant and/or other individuals or organizations who will have a consulting role in this project
4. The experience and qualifications of the individual(s) who will be responsible for carrying out the scope of work
5. A brief, initial response to the scope of services, especially if the applicant chooses not to use the voluntary exclusion program data. This response is for informational purposes only and will not bind the applicant, if selected, to a specific course of action
6. The total cost of the evaluation project

Submission of Applications

Application packets must be received by Friday, June 6, 2003. Packets may be mailed, shipped, or hand-delivered. Submission in electronic or facsimile format is not acceptable. The address for submission is:

Port Authority Problem Gaming Fund
c/o Greater Kansas City Community Foundation
1055 Broadway, Suite 130
Kansas City, Missouri 64105

Time Schedule

June 6, 2003	Deadline for submissions
July 2003	Notification of Awards by the Port Authority
August 2003	Commencement of services

Review Process

Staff at the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and the Problem Gaming Advisory Committee of the Port Authority will review all proposals. The Problem Gaming Committee will make funding recommendations to the full Port Authority membership, which has final decision-making responsibility.

For Additional Information, Contact:

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